

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 031035Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4990

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCAM, XA, PFOR

SUBJECT: EIGHTH OCAM SUMMIT CONFERENCE

REF BANGUI 741 (NOTAL), BANGUI 0855

1. ON EVE 8TH OCAM SUMMIT CONFERENCE BANGUI ALMOST TOTALLY
OCCUPIED WITH LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS. COMPOSITION AND
LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION SOME MEMBER STATES NOT YET MADE PUBLIC.
OCAM SECRETARY-GENERAL FALILOU KANE ARRIVED JULY 30 FOLLOWED BY
DAHOMAN AND TOGOLESE MINISTERIAL DELEGATIONS AUGUST 1. OBSERVER
DELEGATES AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ALSO BEGINNING TRICKLE IN
AND AT LEAST THREE OTHER MEMBER STATE DELEGATIONS EXPECTED DURING
WEEKEND. ON BASIS ASSURANCES REPORTEDLY GIVEN HIM AT MOGADISCIO
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OUA HEADS OF STATE MEETING, CAR FONMIN POTOLOT STATES HE IS

CONFIDENT THAT AS MANY AS EIGHT CHIEFS OF STATE WILL ATTEND CONFERENCE. OTHER OBSERVERS BELIEVE NUMBER WHO WILL ACTUALLY SHOW IN BANGUI WILL BE SMALLER.

2. AGENDA AND RELATED MATTERS ARE REPORTEDLY TO BE MADE PUBLIC OVER WEEKEND. POTOLOT HAS REMARKED THAT BASIC PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE IS TO DECIDE WHETHER ORGANIZATION WILL CONTINUE. DEBATE ON THIS SUBJECT WILL PROBABLY BE IN TERMS OF EFFORTS TO AGREE ON NEW TASKS FOR OCAM FOLLOWING ON DECISIONS REACHED AT 1973 MAURITIUS MEETING. ACCORDING TO POTOLOT GABON AND DAHOMEY IN PARTICULAR ARE DISENCHANTED WITH ORGANIZATION AND TEND BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED. ON OTHER HAND, MANY MEMBERS MAY BE RELUCTANT TO ABANDON OCAM DUE TO THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN ANCILLARY INSTITUTIONS WHICH PERFORM USEFUL FUNCTIONS SUCH AS AIR AFRIQUE. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON VIEWS OF SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST WHICH MAY BEST REFLECT FRENCH VIEWS. GENERAL FEELING AMONG OBSERVERS IS WELL SUMMARIZED IN POTOLOT'S COMMENT THAT IF OCAM SURVIVES THIS MEETING, ITS NEW ORIENTATION WILL HAVE TO BE IN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS.

3. QUESTION SECRETARY GENERAL RELATED TO HEADQUARTERS ISSUE. IF BANGUI GETS SEAT, SENEGALESE FALILOU KANE LIKELY CONTINUE AS SECRETARY GENERAL. HOWEVER, SHOULD DAHOMEY BECOME SITE OCAM HEADQUARTERS, SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD BE DRAWN FROM FRENCH EQUATORIAL STATES RATHER THAN WEST AFRICAN OCAM MEMBERS IN LINE WITH INFORMAL OCAM UNDERSTANDING.

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